

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 15-17, 19-21, 23-24, and 27-30 are amended, and claim 31 is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present claims in view of the following remarks.

I. Specification Objections

The specification is objected to because the cross references to the related applications need to be updated. Accordingly, the information under the “Related Applications” portion of the application is amended to update the information regarding the related applications. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

II. Claim Objections

Claims 17, 19-20, 23-24, 26-29 are objected to because the claims contain the phrase “adapted to” which the Office Action alleges is not a positive recitation but only requires the ability to so perform. Accordingly, claims 17, 19-20, 23-24, and 26-29 are amended to omit the “adapted to” recitation. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection. Moreover, claim 16 is amended for similar reasons.

III. Claim Rejections

Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 1-15

Claims 1-15 of the present application are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-42 of United States Patent No. 7,050,445 and claims 1-28 of United States Patent No. 6,069,882 which, similar to the current patent application, are assigned to BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation. BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation, which is the Assignee of record of the instant application and United States Patent Nos. 7,050,445 and 6,069,882, changed its name to AT&T Intellectual Property, Inc., and has now changed its name to AT&T BLS Intellectual Property, Inc. Although Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, in order to further prosecution of this application, please find included with this response a terminal disclaimer to overcome the nonstatutory double patenting rejection of claims 1-15.

Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 16-30

Claims 16-30 of the present application are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 40-44 of United States Patent No. 7,065,061 which, similar to the current patent application, is assigned to BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation. BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation, which is the Assignee of record of the instant application and United States Patent No. 7,065,061, changed its name to AT&T Intellectual Property, Inc., and has now changed its name to AT&T BLS Intellectual Property, Inc. Although Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, in order to further prosecution of this application, please find included with this response a terminal disclaimer to overcome the nonstatutory double patenting rejection of claims 16-30.

IV. New claim 31

New claim 31 is directed to further embodiments of the Applicant's claimed invention. Support for new claim 31 may be found at least at page 10, lines 4-18 of the specification.

CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, Applicant asserts that the pending claims 1-31 are in condition for allowance. Applicant further asserts that this response addresses each and every point of the Office Action, and respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this application with claims 1-31 to allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact Applicant's attorney at 404.815.1900.

Respectfully submitted,

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